## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: ETRD, KS

SUBJECT: OVERDUE COTTON CONTRACTS

REF: A. SEOUL 922 B. SEOUL 1106 C. STATE 39712

- 1. AS PREDICTED PARA 4 REF A DPM NAM, DURING WASHINGTON VISIT, REFERRED TO OVERDUE COTTON CONTRACTS OF 176,000 BALES AT END OF DECEMBER 1974.
- 2. TO ARRIVE AT THIS FIGURE THE ROKG APPARENTLY REDUCED THE QUANTITY OF BALES IN AN OVERDUE STATUS AS CREDIT FUNDS ALLOCATED, I.E., BY 45.9 MILLION DOLLARS KFX/USANCE AND 50.0 MILLION DOLLARS CCC, WHEREAS USDA AND U.S. COTTON TRADE CONSIDERS SALES AS PAST DUE UNTIL MILLS USE THEIR ALLOCATION AND LETTERS OF CREDIT ARE RECEIVED.
- 3. USDA ESTIMATES THAT BY THE END OF DECEMBER 13.1 MILLION DOLLARS KFX/USANCE HAD BEEN UTILIZED AND 13.1 MILLION DOLLARS CCC CREDIT FUNDS HAD BEEN USED, LEAVING CONFIDENTIAL

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32.8 MILLION DOLLARS AND 36.9 MILLION DOLLARS, RESPECTIVELY

NOT UTILIZED OR 103,000 BALES AND 116,000 BALES AT AN AVERAGE OF 318.00 DOLLARS PER BALE.

- 4. ROKG'S FIGURE OF 176,000 BALES SHOULD BE INCREASED BY THESE 219,000 BALES TO REFLECT THE STATUS OF OVERDUE CONTRACTS FOR WHICH CREDITS HAVE NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED AND THE RESULTING QUANTITY OF 395,000 BALES IS IN REASONABLE AGREEMENT WITH THE USDA'S FIGURE OF 404,000 BALES AS OF THE END OF DECEMBER.
- 5. USDA STATUS OF OVERDUE CONTRACTS AS OF FEBRUARY 22 WAS 448,900 BALES WITH 31.1 MILLION DOLLARS KFX AND 39.2 MILLION DOLLARS CCC CREDIT FUNDS UTILIZED. THESE

FIGURES UPDATE, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, THOSE CONTAINED REF C, AND INDICATE L/C OPENINGS ARE STILL PROCEEDING AT A VERY SLOW RATE.

6. AS YOU KNOW, WE HOPE TO OBTAIN NAC APPROVAL FOR 75
MILLION ADDITIONAL CCC CREDIT FOR KOREA. THIS CREDIT WILL
BE CONTINGENT ON ROKG WRITTEN GUARANTEES (NOW BEING
FORMULATED) THAT CONTRACTS WILL BE HONORED. REASONABLY
CLOSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN USG AND ROKG DATA IS A PREREQUISITE FOR STRIKING SUCH A BARGAIN. THEREFORE,
REQUEST EMBASSY ATTEMPT TO RECONCILE GROK FIGURES WITH
THOSE GIVEN ABOVE AND IN REF C. KISSINGER

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